Ontario

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

News Release
Ministry of Northern Development and Mines

Ontario
Northern Ontario Heritage Fund
Fonds du patrimoine du Nord de l'Ontario

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Province Invests In North Bay Infrastructure Upgrades - #950076

Oak Street Project To Contribute To Revitalizing Downtown

NORTH BAY - The McGuinty government is investing in infrastructure upgrades that will contribute to the revitalization of North Bay's downtown core. Nipissing MPP Monique Smith made the announcement today on behalf of the Minister of Northern Development and Mines, Rick Bartolucci.

"Reliable infrastructure is the foundation upon which strong northern communities are built," said Smith. "By investing in the expansion of these essential services we are building capacity to accommodate new businesses that will create new services and job opportunities in the downtown and waterfront area."

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) is providing $1 million toward the cost of upgrading municipal services on Oak Street including sewer, water and electrical distribution systems. Two hundred metres of Oak Street will be widened to accommodate additional vehicle and pedestrian traffic between Ferguson and Wyld Street, and approximately 750 metres of overhead electrical distribution and supply lines will be installed.

"We are on the side of northerners. That's why we are investing in projects that are strengthening infrastructure in communities across the North," said Bartolucci, who also chairs the NOHFC. "We expect these upgrades will help provide area residents and visitors with a revitalized downtown and waterfront area in which to live, work and do business for years to come."

This initiative is just one way the Ontario government is helping northerners. Others include:

- A refocused Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation that works with the private sector to diversify and grow the northern economy, with additional initiatives in community infrastructure to help increase job creation.
- Hiring 33 new full-time water inspectors, investigators and other compliance staff province-wide to improve monitoring of water quality issues in our communities
- A $1.8-billion investment, over the next five years, in upgraded and expanded northern highways.

These initiatives are part of the government's Northern Prosperity Plan. It has four pillars:

Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All.

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